

MEDIA RELEASE
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Affordable quality early learning solution to intergenerational problem

The Parenthood is urging the Prime Minister and Treasurer to take the advice of the Intergenerational Report (IGR) and deliver more affordable and accessible high quality early learning and care for Australian families.

Executive Director of The Parenthood Jo Briskey said that the IGR's projections of an increased aging population coupled with a reduced working population gives clear motivation to invest now in Australia's quality early learning system.

"This report highlights the fact that for Australia to prosper we must have more mums working and more children receiving higher quality early learning and care." Ms Briskey said.

Parenthood survey results reveal 63 per cent of mothers are not going back to work because childcare is too expensive.

"An incredible 93 per cent of working mothers would work more if childcare was more affordable" Ms Briskey said.

"These are incredible statistics that clearly demonstrate the immediate benefit to the nation's economy if childcare was more affordable for families."

"Not only will more affordable and accessible early learning create a shift in workforce participation now but it will also better prepare our children to take on the skilled and professional work needed to help support our aging population in the future."

"However, our survey results also give a sound warning that we can not afford to make childcare affordable for some by making it more expensive for others."

"The Productivity Commission's recommended changes to family payments for childcare costs are expected to leave hundreds of thousands of families paying more for childcare,"

"And our results show that over 72 per cent of families who would expect to see a jump in their out-of-pocket costs say they would be forced to reduce their hours of work or leave altogether if this was the case."

"The IGR suggests a need to rein in government spending but one area Australia can not afford for government to curb investment is in quality early learning"

"To reap the awards of increased workforce participation now and a more skilled and prepared workforce in the future the government has to increase its investment in early learning."

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